

[Mr. H. J. Pinkett]

[5-160-?] [Dup?]

FORM A CIRCUMSTANCES OF INTERVIEW

NAME OF WORKER Fred D. Dixon ADDRESS 2889 Ohio St.

DATE Nov. 14, 1938 SUBJECT Negro History.

1. Name and address of informant, - Mr. H. J. Pinkett— 2118 N. 25 St.
2. Date and time of interview - Nov. 11, 1938 - 4:00 to 6:30.
3. Place of interview - In the home of Mr. Pinkett
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant. Mr. B. E. Squires —2918 N. 28 st.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you
No. one.
6. Description of room, houses surroundings, etc. - The home of Mr. Pinkett is far above the average Negro home. It is well equipped with all of the furnishings that make a home comfortable. He lives in a very nice neighborhood, and has very friendly neighbors. He has a modern library, with over 1500 volumes. The interview took place on the sun-porch of the home and it was equipped with a small library.

FORM B PERSONAL HISTORY OF INFORMANT

NAME OF WORKER Fred D. Dixon ADDRESS 2889 Ohio st.

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DATE Nov. 14, 1938 SUBJECT Negro History

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mr. H. J. Pinkett, 2118 No. 25. st.

1. Ancestry - Mr. Pinkett's mother was white and his father Indian and Negro.
2. Place and date of birth - He was born in South Carolina in the Shannandoah valley.
3. Family -
4. Place lived in, with dates - Mr. Pinkett has lived in his present home since 1916. He came to Omaha in 1909 from Washington D. C.
5. Education; with dates. -Mr. Pinkett graduated from Howard University in 1907. He is a graduate of the law school. Howard is of the largest Negro University.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates. - Mr. Pinkett is a practicing Attorney. He was first admitted to the Bar in 1907. He is the first Negro to be admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Nebraska.
7. Special skills and interests - Mr. Pinkett is interested in writing and has a book that is being published at the present time. He has for a number of years devoted his extra time to writing and is often consulted on Negro history, both locally and Nationally.
8. Community and religious activities. - Mr. Pinkett has always devoted himself to his community and has performed many deeds that are noteworthy. Perhaps the outstanding one was his part played in establishing harmony after the riot of 1919.
9. Description of informant - Mr. Pinkett is light complexioned, tall, well built physically and very intelligent looking. He is bald and slightly gray about the temples. He speaks with self assurance, and very good diction.

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10. Other points gained in interview.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Fred D. Dixon ADDRESS 2889 Ohio st.

DATE November 14, 1938 SUBJECT Negro History

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mr. H. J. Pinkett

Mr. Pinkett has been practicing law in Omaha since 1909. He was the first Negro lawyer in Omaha who was a graduate of a law school. Prior to him there were several lawyers but they were not law school graduates.

The first Negro attorney in Omaha was Atty. Silas Robbins. His son is yet living in Omaha. Mr. Pinkett has been very active in Negro life in Omaha and has helped in many ways. Probably the one that is most noteworthy is when he went to the Chamber of Commerce and asked that this organization help in restoring peace and order after the riot of 1919. He received able support and with the help of the newspapers a feeling of friendliness was restored. Mr. Pinkett was one of fifteen children seven of whom died in early youth. He is very proud of his family record. He said that of the eight children that lived two finished Howard University, two others attended Howard, one sister finished at Storer College and the other three finished grade school. Many of his nieces and nephews are school teachers, lawyers, and other professional people. Mr. Pinkett is one of two Negroes that ever ran for the office of city commissioner. He was not successful. That was in 1931. He is one of Omaha's oldest Negro Politicians, and has fought for many of the things he felt were essential to the Negro for his welfare and progress. Another pioneer Negro Attorney that has Mr. Pinkett spoke of is Atty, Scruggs. Mr. Scruggs is living in Chicago and is a corporation lawyer.

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There are six law firms in Omaha employing nine Negro lawyers. The most successful one at the present time is Adams & Adams. John Adams Jr. is at the present time a state Senator having been successful in serving three terms in the legislature. Another firm that is quite popular is Williams law firm. This firm is owned and operated by Ray I. Williams. Other firms are Pegg & Pegg; operated by John and Gaitha Pegg; Hutton; by Jess Hutton; Bryant by W. B. Bryant; Davis by Chas. Davis; and the Pinkett law firm. Most of the business of these firms are centered around Real Estate and Criminal cases.

Mr. Pinkett, as stated before, has written many articles about the history of the Negro in Omaha. In the August issue of the Harpers Monthly is a story of Omaha. Also in this article is an account of the riot that has a lot of Mr. Pinkett's own writing, as he worked with the author. This story is part of the interview as he asked the worker to copy it and use it in the survey.